

October 28, 2003
 Recessed Meeting

Minutes

Members Present: 4
 Lloyd Davis-Chairman
 Brent Hunter- Vice Chairman
 Roger Evans - Commissioner
 Johnny Myers- Commissioner

Members Absent: 1
 D.C. Swaim-Commissioner

Others Present:

Cecil E. Wood, County Manager/Clerk to the Board
 Melinda Vestal, Assistant Clerk to the Board

Visitors

Bobby Todd, Yadkin Chamber
 Jamie Johnston, Yadkin Chamber
 Joanne Larkins, YVEDDI
 Andy Anderson, Economic Development Council
 Mayor Hubert Gregory, Yadkinville
 Hassel Brown, Economic Development Council
 Ken Larkin, Yadkinville Town Manager
 Gene Branon, Town Commissioner
 Phillip Graham, Town Commissioner

Chairman Davis called the meeting back to order and had the invocation.

Minutes-Economic Development

Chairman Davis stated he wanted this to be a productive meeting because everything done in the county, whether it be inside the town limits or not, affects everyone.

Mr. Bobby Todd, Economic Development Director/ Executive of the Chamber of Commerce, handed out information about the by-laws for the Economic Development Council, a copy of the resolution for economic development infrastructure assistance, and guidelines for the county's participation with economic development projects; adopted April 7, 1997 by the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Todd stated there has been 3330 jobs created from the businesses brought into the county.

Mr. Todd informed the Board that the Council/Chamber operates on money from the county and private investments. The Board of Commissioners pre-approves additional funding for projects.

Mr. Todd explained how a company is eligible for economic incentives.

Mr. Andy Anderson, Economic Development Council, stated it is very important to have representation from each town at the meetings.

Mr. Hassel Brown, Economic Development Council, stated we are on the right track working with each other. A prime example was the purchase of the Sara Lee building.

Mr. Wood explained that North Carolina is divided into twelve regions; Yadkin County belongs to the Piedmont Triad Region. The Piedmont Triad Partnership works to market our region to get industry interested in our area.

There was discussion on the types of business who qualify for incentives; retail is not one of them.

Mr. Wood asked the group if we wanted to offer incentives to businesses that will not pay a county average wage?

Commissioner Evans stated manufacturing jobs no longer exist. We need to market the county to other types of business; with the economy as it is, a job is a job. He suggested not necessarily changing the incentive program, but adding to it.

Chairman Davis stated the only way to generate funds is to raise taxes. He indicated we live in a “bedroom” community; people live here, but work elsewhere.

The Board discussed what is important to a business when looking for a site. The biggest question is about the education system.

Commissioner Myers commented what happens when things do get better, what can we offer then? He stated we can raise taxes six or seven cents now, but that would only put us back where we were two years ago. It will take a fifteen cent increase to build schools.

Chairman Davis stated we can do something and get ahead or stay where we are and go nowhere.

Mr. Wood asked what incentives are other counties offering? Are we being competitive?

Mayor Gregory stated the Board of Commissioners need to provide the leadership and guidance for others to follow.

Mr. Todd informed the group the next meeting of the Economic Development Council will be

Thursday, December 4th at 5:30 p.m.

Recess

*Commissioner Myers made the motion to recess the meeting until Thursday, October 30th.
Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 4-0.**

Cecil E. Wood, Clerk to the Board/
County Manager